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FRANCIS EUGENE RANDALL, 1914-1949

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A PROMISING career in the field of applied physical anthropology was cut short with the death of Francis E. Randall, who was killed in the crash of an airliner at Washington on November 1, 1949. At the time, he was on his way to Camp Lee, Virginia, in connection with his work in Army anthropology.

Primarily a physical anthropologist, Frank Randall was interested in many aspects of that field. For the past three years, he had been chief anthropologist at the Quartermaster Climatic Research Laboratory, Lawrence, Mass., where the work in physical anthropology is an integral part of the Army program of research in human biology being carried on by the Quartermaster Corps. He regarded his work with the Army as an opportunity to enlarge the scope of physical anthropology, particularly with regard to the practical applications of anthropometric data.

A native of New Philadelphia, Ohio, Randall graduated from Western Reserve University in 1936, and received an M.A. degree in 1938. While in Cleveland, he was associated with the Cleveland Clinic, and with the Brush Foundation in the study of growth and development in children. He also worked under Todd at the Western Reserve School of Medicine as an instructor in anatomy. In 1940, Randall went to Harvard for graduate work in physical anthropology under Hooton, and received his Ph.D. degree there in 1942.

During the war years, Randall was on active duty in the Army Air Forces as head of the Anthropology Unit at the Aero-Medical Laboratory, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. This work consisted of extensive research in applied anthropometry in connection with the development of spatial requirements for aircraft and related aviation equipment. In 1946, Randall received an appointment as anthropologist in the Quartermaster Corps. His most important contribution in this capacity was the anthropometric survey, which he directed. During the survey in 1946, over 100,000 men and 9,000 women in the Army and Air Corps were measured by teams working at six separation centers. As many as sixty-four anthropometric measurements were taken on each subject, with the result that an extensive and useful collection of data was accumulated. A large series of standard somatotype photographs was also obtained which has been used by Hooton at Harvard in studies of body build and constitutional types in the Army.

The analysis and application of the anthropometric data resulting from the Army survey had been Randall's main effort during the last three years. From the viewpoint of basic research in physical anthropology, several statistical

analyses have been carried out on both the male and female series, and others are in progress. The material is also being studied with regard to such factors as growth, age changes, variation, etc. In the field of applied anthropometry, the data of the survey have been used extensively in connection with research and development of Army clothing and other types of military equipment. Randall was responsible for the recent development and use of anthropometry in the Army, and was just beginning to show demonstrable results of the applications of anthropometry to Army clothing problems. He felt, however, that the comparatively new field of applied physical anthropology had wide possibilities and he was constantly seeking for wider and more extensive use of human body measurements in the design and improvement of all types of equipment used by man.

An example of Randall's efforts in this field was the organization of a symposium on applied physical anthropology, which was held at the meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in April, 1948. A complete bibliography of his publications will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology.*

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